

Planning and Construction Committee

- Regular Meeting

Tuesday, March 19, 2019 4:30 pm

Room 204, Town Hall, 14 Court Square

Present: Amy McMahan, Joe Ruggeri, Susan Hollins, Jean Wall (chair), John Andrews, Nancy Hazard

Also Present: Carole Collins, Christy Moore, Susan Worgafnic, Roxann Wedegartner, Marlo Warner, Lindsay Rowe

Call to Order by Jean Wall at 4:41 pm

Minutes

Apologized for the delay in the minutes. Staff will work on timeliness. S.H. and N.H. had some minor edits to grammar.

Motion to approve the July, September, October and November 2018 Minutes as corrected by SH, seconded by JA. Passed Unanimously.

Capital Requests

The Committee has been given the Mayor's Recommendations that were submitted to Council. At that point, departments have submitted requests, the Capital Improvement Committee has met and provided recommendations and the Mayor has made his final report to Council. What role does Planning and Construction have at this point? If the Committee would like to pass along recommendations, then the Committee can present to the Council as the Council doesn't attend this committee.

Anaerobic Digester

Marlo Warner, Director of DPW, presented. Greenfield had been disposing of sludge (the end product of Waste Water Treatment) in Montague. They were shut down and the City had to haul to disposal sites in Cranston, then Lowell. Halfway through the budget season in FY19 it is estimated to be \$420,000 to haul and dispose of sludge (over double what it was in 2015). Problem is landfills are closing and getting further away. If Lowell closes, then looking to haul to

Upstate New York which could cost over 1 Million per year. Currently, sludge disposal is a quarter of the operating budget of the Sewer Department.

JR - What's the general process of sludge?

MW - Wastewater goes into the pipes, through the treatment plant, then into a tank. A tanker truck comes into the plant and pumps it into its tank and then hauls it away. In the 70s and 80s, there was an anaerobic digester, but there was a concern about metals due to high industry waste at that time and they chose not to build another AD.

Regional digester would reduce carbon footprint in the valley and helps reduce operations costs. Plus greater chance of grant funding with regionalization. Since late November, designs have been made and numbers have been run. There are interested communities, but before they sign an intermunicipal agreement, communities want to see that Greenfield is committed.

There are six communities that are interested, and they'd pay proportional costs. The concept is 7.2 million gallons and Greenfield would be roughly a third of that. It also looks like Greenfield may have the biggest savings. Would need to create an account to help with maintenance and capital expenses.

JR - What are the costs of a single town, just Greenfield, doing this?

MW - There is a report that will be able to give us costs of a Greenfield-only plan expected by the end of the week. There are other communities that are interested in using this digester, but if Greenfield wanted to just do it alone, we'd create the ability to expand for the future.

Greenfield is hauling 4-6 loads a week at 9,000 gallons per load. Hauling is contracted through the Franklin County Solid Waste District now.

JR - Can we take a trip to the WasteWater Treatment plant?

MW - happy to show you. The digester would create some energy and it would be used in the treatment plant. The Fats, Oils, and Grease(FOG) that are a nuisance to the existing plant would be helpful to the anaerobic digester. The footprint is on the current property of the Treatment plant.

JW - The other communities need to see the support of Greenfield before their town meetings meet.

NH - Melink farm in Deerfield has an anaerobic digester that is food grade, but it's a good example. Should we take a trip there?

AM - Could we become the regional AD capital and all the communities all over Massachusetts would ship to us?

MW - The current design is for up to the 6-7 communities that have shown interest. If we wanted to expand this, we'd have to redesign this.

JW - Remember this bond would be paid from the Sewer Fund, not the General Fund. It's all paid by rate payers.

MW - So, do the rates go up because we haul farther and farther or do they go up.

JR - Let's have the Committee go on a tour, so that we understand it.

MW - If we do a large group tour, you may want to do a Saturday as there's lots of things going on during the weekday.

NH - May want to have the committee.

MW - One of the big issues is that we're at the mercy of the hauling companies and disposal facilities. This will help us stabilize the costs.

CC - I/I adds extra water in the system, which then has to be treated and then hauled. What is happening with this?

MW - The reduction in I/I is ongoing. We're under a consent order and will continue to work on projects to help reduce groundwater from entering the treatment system.

CC - I've wanted to see reduced water consumption, so what are we doing to reduce the water intake into the system? Do we have to guarantee the gallons?

MW - We can still recirculate the gallons in the digester. The I/I is a separate issue, and it wouldn't flood the digester. We still have to run pumps and electricity and chemicals to treat groundwater that shouldn't have to be treated.

JR - Can we do a tour on Tuesday, April the 2nd at 10 am?

MW - Will check with Mark Holley.

LR - I will post the meeting.

SH - This is all in the Sewer Fund?

JR - Yes, the town has an Enterprise Fund for sewer and another for water that take all revenue and expenses.

SH - When do other communities need this information for Town Meeting?

MW - Small towns need some information for Town Meeting. Many have it on their warrant for these meetings. We will probably miss the 2019 Town Meetings, so they are waiting on Greenfield to make a move.

While it's \$7.3M for the entire project, many funders have shifted grants to sludge digesters from food waste.

SH - How long will it take once it's approved?

MW - There's permitting and other factors that go into this. This may take 2 years.

JR - We've heard about the water meters and loved it.

MW - I reviewed the Water Meters program and am looking at 300,000 to 400,000 savings from previous years proposals.

JR - Can this be required in new builds and other problems?

MW - The builder or plumber pays for the meters in new construction. In the first two years, looking to get the largest meters changed in the largest buildings. Currently we read meters for 20 days a month all year. The new ones would read in 3 days. At the end of the project, we'd set up the radio receivers to read daily and could identify big problems very quickly. Now, that laborer will be able to work on water infrastructure and maintenance of the system.

Skate Park

SW - Fire Station plans show skate park behind some homes. This is unacceptable to the Skate Park supporters and they have a plan to move it to the retention pond.

CM - There was a home demolished a few years ago. The land owners that this skate park would be behind were very against the park because they had water in their basements. There are skate parks that can act as a retention basin, and would help in the case of high water. If we can be creative in handling water issues then we can have both of these.

SW - Either way the retention water would need to be addressed.

CM - In the coastal towns where there is lots of flooding, there's a product that help hold water, which is a system to discharge.

MW - This system is used under the parking lot at Walgreens and the new Community Center and the Transit Center.

CM - We have been working with a civil engineer to see if it'll hold the weight of concrete for the Skate Park.

SW - The School Department would like to have the Skate Park near the Middle School. The retention issue needs to be fixed and we're proposing they be combined to fix it.

MW- The retention pond was put in for when the culvert was backed up, it would overflow in there. It was not designed to remove the groundwater from the surrounding homes. The Maplebrook Culvert is being fixed and CCTV'd to determine why it's not working. DPW has plans for this area to help fix these issues.

SW - We're interested in working with DPW.

JW - What if you add the Police?

CM - This would not impact the Police addition.

SH - Could you create an amphitheater for theater or movies?

KH - We're not at design yet. First we have to figure out location and funding. There's park grants for applying. If this goes through, the Skate Park would need July 2020 to apply.

JR - What's the funding?

CM - If we get a 70/30 match for the park grant, then there's up to \$400,000.

SW - The Skate Park has raised \$23,000 and has plans for additional private grant money. It's an investment in the long term community. Part of the plan is to have a "beginners" section to keep the advanced skaters separate. There are very few places in town that can have several tons of concrete. A secondary site is possibly the Downtown Economy lot between Chapman and Davis. The south side would not interfere with the drainage project in that parking lot. Goal is to have it done by Spring 2022 in one way or another.

CM - The reason the Skate Park group liked Riddell Street - it's close to the Middle School for kids to get there after school. It's close to the hospital.

SW - It's a green innovation to incorporate the retention pond into this.

NH - Have they been working with FRCOG?

CM - They've been working with FRCOG for some time.

SW - This drainage issue will have to be resolved regardless of the Fire Department move to Riddell Street.

SH - Sarasota has a skate park with outside walking.

SW - We're looking at this with arts and culture including a graffiti wall.

CM - The Skate Park was recommended for FY20, and I'd like to move it to FY21.

NH - It looks like there's a million in capital expenditure and an additional \$500,000 for the Fire Station.

JR - would love to see the property. Can we walk it? April 2nd after the treatment plant? Look to do it at 10:30 a.m.

Fire Station

JW - The Mayor has offered to have P&C members on the construction committee.

JR - Propose to table Fire and Library, in light of the vote soon.

Motion to Adjourn by Amy M. seconded by Nancy H.

Adjourned at 6:14